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DEPT FOR INL/PC (CLINE AND PALA) AND EUR/AGS (SAINT ANDRE)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AORC SNAR UNCND AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA: WAITING FOR EU GUIDANCE ON COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS VOTE ON DRONABINOL

REF: STATE 17100

EconPolOff delivered refel demarche on February 14 to Johann Froehlich, the Head (DAS-level) of the Foreign Ministry's Justice and Home Affairs Division and to Wolfgang Spadinger, the Director of this Division's Office for International Cooperation on Drug control, Crime Prevention, and Counterterrorism. Austria has not taken a position yet regarding the WHO recommendations on oripavine and dronabinol. Spadinger commented that this is a scientific and not a political issue. The MFA, he said, is waiting to hear from Austrian government health experts on whether oripavine and dronabinol are a problem in Austria and is also waiting for guidance from the EU's European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Post will follow up when Austria reaches a decision on these WHO recommendations.

McCaw